

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 3 and 7, as amended, remain at issue.

Claim 3 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been rewritten including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2, from which claim 3 formerly depended. Claim 3 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 has been rewritten to include each of the limitations of claim 1. As amended, claim 7 is directed to a sheet material handling system having at least one support member with a substantially vertical support leg extending from a substantially horizontal base. A planar working surface is connected to each support leg by a hinged connection which allows pivoting of the planar working surface with respect to each vertical support leg along a pivot axis. A latching member is operatively associated with the base and configured to lock the pivoting of the planar working surface in a select position. The latching member comprises a bar having first and second ends pivotally attached at the first end to a base with the second end being configured to align with a bracket on the underside of the planar work surface near its lengthwise edge. Means are provided for releasably attaching the second end of the bar to the bracket.

Claim 7 stands rejected over Allen, U.S. Patent No. 3,787,040. The Examiner points to the control latch 75 as constituting a latching member for blocking the pivoting of the planar work surface to a select position. Applicant respectfully traverses this grounds of refusal based upon the amendments to claim 7.

The control latch 75 described in Allen is part of a mechanism for automatically retracting and extending pins 29 through slots 28 as the table 10 pivots between a horizontal position as depicted in Fig. 9 to a substantially vertical position as indicated in phantom lines in Fig. 9. The control latch 75 is not configured for locking the pivoting of the planar working surface in a select position. This is readily apparent by observation of Figs. 2 and 3 and the accompanying description. Referring to Fig. 3, because of the pivotal connection at 56, between the members 75 and 60 and between the member 75 and the rod 77, as the table pivots about the hinge 13, the bars 60 and 75 pivot about their respective ends and do not prevent movement of the table 10 about the hinge 13. However, with the latch 75 engaged to the rod 77, the arm 60 and the control latch 77 cooperate to effectuate extension and retraction of the posts 29 as

described in greater detail in the specification. The specification further describes at column 4, lines 13-25, that the control latch 75 can be disengaged from the rod 77 to thus disable the feature of automatically retracting pins 29. Accordingly, Allen fails to teach or suggest a latching member as recited in claim 7. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7, rewritten in independent form, are respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits the claims as filed are allowable over the art of record and reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. If it would be helpful to obtain favorable consideration of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call and discuss this case with the undersigned.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and an authorization to charge all fees therefore to deposit account No. 19-5117, if not otherwise specifically requested. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any fees created by the filing of this document or any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to deposit account No. 19-5117.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 28, 2006